



SADA NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Contact SADA

Phone 08 8293 2399

Email sada@sada.asn.au

Visit Unit 5, 780 South Road Glandore SA 5037

Or find us on Facebook

The past few weeks have been very busy, working with Ministers and their departments across a range of issues including Concessional Loans, Natural Resource Management, Water and storm damage. We have also had the opportunity to celebrate the third birthday of SADA Fresh in South Australian Market. At a recent event, President John Hunt took the opportunity to thank consumers for their support in buying a range of local SA dairy products in increasing volumes.

Power and Water

Spring seemed to be a little late this year, but it did get here. While many members have spent much of that time making silage and hay, SADA has been involved in a range of activities: Key among these has been work relating to power and to water.

Power

- Members of the SA Government's Senior Management Council joined a group of Mount Compass members to discuss the impact of (repeated) power outages on dairy businesses.
- As certain areas experienced power outages, we have worked with SA Power Networks to recognise the animal welfare as well as the business continuity considerations associated with being able to milk dairy cows.
- **If you are concerned about power outage affecting your milking operations, please contact SADA on 0419 037 569.**
- SADA is working with energy experts, Make It Cheaper to get cheaper rates on power bills. As energy experts, MIC can run a full comparison against a panel of leading energy retailers and regularly find a better deal.
- **To find out how much we could save, email a copy of your bill with contact details to sada@makeitcheaper.com.au or call (02) 8077 0006.**

- Many dairy farms are currently considering installation of a generator/ At SADA we are developing a "fact sheet" outlining things to consider when installing a generator. This information will be available early in 2017 ... but if you can't wait, give us a call on 08 8293 2399 or email sada@sada.asn.au

Water

The story with water is a little murky.

- Buying permanent water can be challenging and time consuming, particularly in newer water trading areas such as the South East. SADA has been working with the Department (DEWNR) and with water brokers to navigate the processors.
- While we know that it is not a clear, we do understand the process much better so call 08 8293 2399 or [email](mailto:sada@sada.asn.au) if you want to know what we have discovered.
- As is evident in the media, there is quite a bit of discussion regarding the Murray Darling Basin Plan. At SADA we are working with Dairy Australia and the ADF to ensure SA dairy farmers are represented.
- We are also currently monitoring the progress of the "Black Water Event" down the River Murray. While we understand that the black water is not harmful for animals, cows don't like it and would far prefer to drink cleaner water.



Giving farmers a voice



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Back packers

SADA welcomes the resolution of the backpacker tax. The decision provides certainty for backpackers and employers.

It is a good outcome for dairy farmers to know that they will continue to be able to call on backpackers for vital on-farm and off-farm roles which cannot be filled locally and to complement our existing workforce during peak times.

We will now work with the government to redress the impact of months of indecision. It has affected the dairy industry and rural Australia and we need to let potential working holiday makers know there are opportunities here.

If you use back packers as part of your dairying operations, please undertake our [survey here](#)

The Effects Test

There has been much discussion in the last few days about the "effects Test". You can google *Section 46 Effects Test* to read all about it. The effects test will work against the misuse of market power to prohibit a corporation with a substantial degree of power in a market from engaging in conduct if it has the purpose, or would have or be likely to have the effect, of substantially lessening competition in that or any market.

SADA has been actively working with Australian Dairy Farmers Limited and state dairy farmer organisations to lobby for the establishment of this test which will assist in preventing damaging practices, including predatory pricing in future.

The reforms will support consumers' interests as well as dairy farmers by moving towards a more objective measure to assess the impact of anti-competitive behaviour .

It is important to note that this legislation has only been introduced to the parliament. While it is very much welcomed, we have seen through the back-packer tax saga that passage through parliament can be challenging with many twists and turns. We will keep members posted.

Dairy Community Family BBQ

You're invited to a Dairy Community Family BBQ - a relaxed and informal end of year catch up with dairy industry friends and colleagues. Please come along and enjoy company of other dairy farm families and industry people as well as have a fun night out where you don't have to cook dinner!

VENUE: Mount Compass Community Hall

WHEN: Thursday 15 December from 6.30pm

RSVP: David Kuchel 0427 006 233, Bec Hehir 0418 951 324, Verity Ingham 0428 660127 or info@dairysa.com.au by Tuesday 13 Dec.

Men's Health



Sally Fisher, *Healthy Farmers Advisor*, has collaborated with the Freemasons Foundation Centre for Men's Health at the University of Adelaide to produce brief films about common men's health issues. The films can be found at www.ppsa.org.au/our-work/health-and-safety/resources/mens-health-films/



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Sharon Joppich - SADA Board member

From the family dairy farm to leadership roles on one of South Australia's largest dairy operations, Sharon Joppich's experience within the dairy industry is extensive. This year, she joined the SADA Board to contribute to the industry's push for profitability and whole-of-industry cohesiveness.

As a part of her move into advocacy, Sharon is also keen to help the industry progress in areas of processor/farm gate relations and transparency, government relations, international and domestic market access and investment as well as better recognition for the role of women in dairy. She believes by taking a whole-of-industry approach, dairy in South Australia has a promising future.

Side-by-side with husband Neville, Sharon milks 350 cows at 'Manga Dairy'; a 600-hectare high production, grass and grain system at Tri Hi, near Penola, in South Australia's lower South East. Calving the 80% Holstein – 20% Stud Guernsey and Ayrshire herd takes place in Spring and Autumn as well as in December, and the duo rear and grow-out their AI heifers as well as some Angus-cross and Holstein bull calves.

Since starting her career in the dairy industry on her family's Tintinara operation, Sharon has actively developed her leadership and management skills. Before running her own farm with Neville, she was Herd Manager, and later, Operations and TIC, with Donovan's Dairy – a 2500-cow operation at Wye near Mount Gambier. She has also completed a Diploma of Agriculture and Diploma of Human Resources (Dairy), as well as industry

leadership training and Forage Skills with Dairy Australia. She currently serves on the Suppliers Forum for Warrnambool Cheese Butter.



Sustainable Ag Case Studies

South East NRM is on the lookout for candidates who might be willing to take part in a Sus Ag case study. Are you, or do you know of a farmer that has taken up some form of sustainable practices and would be willing to be interviewed. Practices could include: no-til, water efficiency, shelter belts, soils, whole farm planning, variable rate, to name a few.

For further information contact:

Mathew Honner, Regional Landcare Facilitator at matthew.honner@sa.gov.au or on 0439 346 025



Giving farmers a voice



Assisting farmers to improve irrigation efficiency.

The SA Dairy Industry Fund has provided seed funding to enable DairySA and SARDI to commence an investigation of the value of variable rate irrigation (VRI) to farmers in the South East.

VRI allows the pivot system to tailor water to specific areas within the pivot area, the aim was to determine if VRI would improve production enough that it is a cost effective addition to a Dairy Pivot.

The project has found that as with all irrigation systems understanding the soil is key to performance efficiency. SADA funding contributed to electromagnetic mapping and radiometric surveys of the soil and soil cores to estimate plant readily available water (RAW).

The key finding has been that when irrigation application is matched to the soil with the lowest RAW VRI would not further improve water application. "If you're managing for lighter soils, the others are already looked after," said Nigel Fleming (SARDI). But he said there could be other benefits in savings by applying less water in less productive areas or laneways and by potentially reducing waterlogging that develops as a result of rainfall, so there is still more work to be done.

The project will continue until early 2018 allowing the DairySA and SARDI team to quantify the value of VRI for reducing waterlogging and consequential pasture losses.